

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 726  
By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to designate Thursday, May 29, 2003 as "Bob Hope Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this nation hold in deep affection the gifted comedian and star of vaudeville and film, Bob Hope, for the impact that he has had on the collective memories of those of us who have lived through all or parts of the twentieth century, and especially for his years of appearances entertaining our men and women in uniform, both in this country and across the world; and

WHEREAS, born Leslie Towns Hope in Eltham, England, on May 29, 1903, he moved with his family to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1907; attracted to the stage as a teen, he became a rising vaudeville star, at first as part of a dancing act; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, Bob Hope made his radio debut on *Capitol Family Hour* and then appeared in several important Broadway productions, including *Roberta*, the 1935 *Ziegfeld Follies* and *Red, Hot and Blue*; during this period he married Dolores Reade in 1934, and the couple went on to adopt Linda, Anthony, William Kelly, and Honora; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hope made his feature film debut in 1938 in *The Big Broadcast of 1938* in which he and Shirley Ross sang *Thanks for the Memories*, which became his theme song; his career then embraced appearances as a presenter and Master of Ceremonies for the Academy Awards; he made 20 appearances as emcee or co-host of the Oscars between 1940 and 1978; and

WHEREAS, Bob Hope and his friend, Bing Crosby, made a series of memorable *Road* pictures, beginning in 1940 with *The Road to Singapore*, in which they co-starred with Dorothy Lamour; in 1948, Bob performed his first Christmas tour for American servicemen and servicewomen, entertaining personnel involved in the Berlin airlift; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Hope was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson in appreciation of his career and his contribution to keeping morale high in the U.S. Armed Services; on March 29, 1990, he made his last overseas tour for our troops on the eve of the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Bob Hope's 90th birthday was celebrated with a television special featuring then-President Bill Clinton, and former presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush; three years later his last special, *Laughing with the Presidents*, aired on NBC; and

WHEREAS, Bob Hope, vaudevillian, radio comic, movie and television star, comedian, cultural icon, USO performer, golfing buddy to presidents, and indefatigable goodwill ambassador now marks his 100th birthday; he has been many times honored, including having a 950-foot, 33,000-ton Navy support ship christened the USNS Bob Hope, the dedication of Library of Congress' Bob Hope Gallery of American Entertainment, and the receipt of countless other accolades and honors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes on behalf of the people of Tennessee to extend our own expression of thanks and appreciation to this greatest American entertainer and "Citizen of the Century" as proclaimed by a recent Hollywood Walk of Fame tribute; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED  
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE  
CONCURRING, that we hereby designate Thursday, May 29, 2003, as "Bob Hope Day" in  
Tennessee in honor of Mr. Hope's outstanding career as an entertainer and his great service to  
the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, and offer him our especially heartfelt  
"Thanks for the Memories".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared  
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.